



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Health Services

At its meeting held September 14, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

The Director of Health Services' recommendation to find that patient care services can be performed more economically by contracting with the private sector; approve and instruct the Chairman to sign agreement with Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science for the provision of clinical and academic services at Martin Luther King, Jr./Charles R. Drew Medical Center, Hubert H. Humphrey Comprehensive Health Center and other designated Southwest Cluster facilities (2), at a maximum County obligation of \$9,028,114 for the contract period of October 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, and \$12,029,152 for the contract period of July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"On August 10, 2004, the Board approved a motion directing the Department of Health Services (DHS) to immediately initiate actions to return sponsorship of its training programs to the County. The agreement before us today would leave sponsorship of three programs (Family Practice, Obstetrics, and Pediatrics) with Drew University, but does not address how this would be managed.

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“On several occasions this Board has requested DHS to provide specific criteria on a number of issues, such as how physician competence would be evaluated and how training programs would be reconfigured. To date, the Board has not received answers to these questions. In March 2004, the Board requested the criteria to be used to decide whether Drew University is viable enough to continue having a medical school affiliation with the County. This has not been addressed.

“The September 13, 2004 DHS memo to the Board referenced that the future of Drew University is questionable. If this is correct, the Board needs to be cautious about the County’s relationship with a medical school of questionable quality without a clear plan in the event Drew University fails to meet sanctions again.

“The improved partnership between DHS and Drew University is not convincing given the recent behavior by Drew University’s faculty’s delayed reporting of the orthopedic surgery program being placed on probation by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education. Moreover, the Director of Health Services informed the Board that he and Drew University had agreed to phase out the orthopedic program, and shortly thereafter, Drew University announced in a press release that they would fix the problems and obtain full accreditation of the existing orthopedic surgery program.

“In addition, Drew University’s Dean continues to send memos to the faculty describing the new agreement negatively. These behaviors are not those of an organization that wants to be a partner, and it is in the Board’s interest to be prudent about the relationship between DHS and Drew University.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Adopted the Director of Health Services’ attached recommendations; and
2. Directed the Director of Health Services to report to the Board within 30 days on the following:
 - An assessment of the future viability of Drew University as an affiliation medical school;

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- A description of the necessary steps Drew University must take in order to improve its ability to attract high quality physician faculty, and stronger applicants for the resident training programs;
- Whether Drew University can raise the necessary outside funding to achieve long-term financial stability; and
- The criteria DHS establishes to objectively measure Drew University's ability to achieve the desired level of performance.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel